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argue the existence of an age of far greater rain than at present. The geological horizon is easily identifiable as Pleistocene, and from a combination of all these elements they are led to assign this epoch of great precipitation to the great Ice Age of the northern hemisphere. This suggestion may well be extended to account for the deep alluvium of the southern face of New Guinea, which has proved such a puzzle in the exploration of the Fly River.

Students of early anthropology will welcome their careful notes upon the pile houses and the cave dwellers, the Toala of Lamongtong. The lacustrine pile dwellings of mid-Europe have received careful study, and many theories have been advanced to account for this peculiar style of habitation. But it has remained for the Sarasins to enter pile dwellings of the present day, to see how the domestic concerns of such domiciles are conducted, to familiarize themselves with life in such habitations. Their report cannot fail of being instructive, and will certainly exercise a broad influence upon a renewed study of the Swiss and other lacustrine dwellings.

In their discovery of the Toala, the bush people of the southwestern peninsula and no more than thirty miles from Makassar, they were fortunate enough to come upon primitive man just emerging from the Stone Age, for his flints and chipped stone implements were no deeper below the surface than are the arrow heads which are even yet turned up within the city limits of New York. At their discovery by the Sarasins the Toala were just emerging from cave-dwelling and a few had learned to build houses after the type of their Bugi neighbours. Speculation may be rife over the scanty fragments of a man of Neanderthal, a man of Cro-Magnon, a man of Nebraska; yet to these Swiss explorers has come the overwhelming good fortune to sit in the caves of the cave man, to meet his wife and family, to handle his club, to learn his belief, and to sound his ignorance. One cannot help enthusiasm for a work which puts us upon familiar terms with the lake-dweller and the cave-man alive and in the flesh. And it is told so simply, so utterly is it devoid of effort to impress a point, that it must infallibly carry conviction.

One other point we would mention, even though it is a negative argument. It is that in all the place-names which these explorers have recorded, whether on the coast or inland, there is not one which would awaken the recollection of any Polynesian. Yet Celebes lay in the path of the great Polynesian swarming. Its outlying island of Salayer, at the foot of the southwest peninsula, is clearly recalled in the esoteric name of our Samoan Tutuila as Motu o Salaia. Neither name, nor custom, nor art of handicraft of the peoples of Celebes finds any place in the life of Polynesia. Such negative evidence is welcome to those who are seeking to divorce the two stocks, unequally yoked in the old classification of the Malayo-Polynesian.

Despite evident care, the map-maker has done for the Sarasins what map-makers always will do; in several cases the spelling of names upon the maps is at variance with the text.

W. C.

**Prosa und Poesie der Suaheli. Von Prof. Dr. C. Velten.** viii and 443 pp. Published by the Author, Berlin, 1907. (Price, M. 7.50.)

Prof. Velten occupies the Chair of Suaheli in the Seminar für Orientalische Sprachen der Friedrich Wilhelms-Universität, Berlin. He has made this collection of Suaheli prose and poetry as a reader for students of the language. Nearly all of the selections are now printed for the first time and were collected

by the author in East Africa. The book is supplied with numerous footnotes explaining every difficult word, complex construction, etc., so as to adapt it for beginners. It includes Suaheli stories, conversations, bits of history, proverbs, riddles, poems and songs. Many of the conversations relate to business, commerce, and the daily affairs of life, and will thus help white workers to acquire the everyday vocabulary. The book will give to students a valuable insight into the intellectual life of the Suaheli.

**The Wonders of the Colorado Desert. By George Wharton James.** 2 vols. lvii and 547 pp., over 300 pen-and-ink Sketches, Maps, and Index. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1906. (Price, \$5.)

Seven years ago Mr. James published his "In and Around the Grand Canyon." It was the result of ten years of visiting to that wonderland. The pages showed plainly enough that the most careful and long-continued study had been given to the preparations necessary to write a good book. It was no tourist's sketch.

The present work by Mr. James shows the same grasp and mastery of the subject. He has spent a long time in studying the Colorado Desert, and his long book is full of detailed information about it. It is not a scientific treatise, but it contains much scientific matter. It is by no means wholly original, for the author quotes liberally from the best writers on the various aspects of the Desert. The whole is intended for the general reader, and Mr. James has rendered a service by placing before the public so admirable an account of that remarkable region.

The Colorado Desert, so called because the Colorado River passes through it, is in southern California and northern Mexico. The "Grand Canyon of the Colorado" lies in Utah and Arizona. The author calls attention to the fact that the use of the word Colorado has misled many persons:

Just as the "Grand Canyon of the Colorado" has been supposed (and still is) by thousands to be located in Colorado, so is the Colorado desert supposed to occupy a portion of that great state of mineral wealth.

Most readers will be surprised to learn of the manifold aspects of this Desert as they are unfolded in these pages, which first give a general review of it and then describe it in greater detail. Among the surprises mentioned by the author are the clarity of the atmosphere, the large, brilliant beauty of the stars, the coolness of the night after the blazing day, the desert rains, the contrasting colours of mountain slope, snowcap, and sands, the varieties and peculiarities of tree and other plant life, the wealth of desert flowers, the speed with which trees and plants mature, and the scores of wells yielding millions of gallons of water. All these and many other phases of the Desert, including the work of turning parts of it into areas of verdure and fertility, are described in the thirty-nine chapters; and the work concludes with a full description of the calamity that has befallen the Salton Basin, lying below the level of the sea, by the unfortunate diversion of the waters of the Colorado River into the Imperial Valley.

Mr. James does well to give a sketch of his artist, Carl Eytel, whose hundreds of pen-and-ink sketches are fully worthy to illustrate the vivid word-pictures they accompany. Eytel is an artist because he cannot help it. He loves this fascinating region and its life. He has been painting, sketching, and studying there for years. His work certainly shows a high order of talent, and we may readily believe in the truthfulness as well as the sincerity of the tribute Mr. James pays